

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add new claims 41-51 as follows:

21. (Previously Presented) A decorative lighting apparatus, comprising:
a housing;
a decorating selector which provides a plurality of user-selectable switch settings;
logic which includes a microprocessor/microcontroller and memory carried in the housing;
the memory including software programmed therein;
the memory including programmed data corresponding to a plurality of holiday color schemes, the holiday color schemes including those corresponding to Christmas, Independence Day, and Halloween;
the microprocessor/microcontroller being operative in connection with the software to, for each user-selectable switch setting of the decorating selector:
identify, based on the user-selectable switch setting, pre-programmed data corresponding to a holiday color scheme; and
control, with use of the programmed data, the illumination of a decorative light strand having a plurality of lights in accordance with the holiday color scheme.
22. (Previously Presented) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 21, wherein the holiday color schemes further include holiday color schemes corresponding to Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day.
23. (Previously Presented) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 21, wherein the decorating selector comprises a rotary switch.

24. (Previously Presented) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 21, wherein the decorating selector comprises a push-button switch for sequentially selecting holiday color schemes.

25. (Previously Presented) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:

a wireless remote control device; and

a wireless receiver with antenna which receives a control command from the wireless remote control device for selecting the holiday color schemes.

26. (Previously Presented) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 21, wherein the decorating selector is carried on the housing.

27. (Previously Presented) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 21 wherein at least some of the holiday color schemes have at least two colors in a repeated interleaved pattern.

28. (Previously Presented) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:

a female connecting socket carried on the housing for connecting with the decorative light strand.

29. (Previously Presented) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:

an AC cord and plug interface on the housing for supplying power to the decorative lighting apparatus.

30. (Previously Presented) A method of decorating with a decorative light strand, comprising:

hanging a decorative light strand for year-round use for a plurality of holidays and other occasions, the decorative light strand comprising a plurality of lights which are carried along a plurality of wires, an AC plug and cord for supplying power for all illuminated lights along the decorative light strand, and a decorating selector which includes a housing which carries a switch;

setting the switch for illuminating a Christmas holiday color scheme in the plurality of lights along the decorative light strand during Christmas;

setting the switch for illuminating an Independence Day holiday color scheme in the plurality of lights along the decorative light strand during Independence Day; and

setting the switch for illuminating a Halloween holiday color scheme in the plurality of lights along the decorative light strand during Halloween.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising:

setting the switch for illuminating a Valentine's Day holiday color scheme in the plurality of lights along the decorative light strand during Valentine's Day; and

setting the switch for illuminating a St. Patrick's Day holiday color scheme in the plurality of lights along the decorative light strand during St. Patrick's Day.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the act of hanging the decorative light strand comprises the act of permanently hanging the decorative light strand for year-round use.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the decorative light strand further has logic which includes a microprocessor/microcontroller and memory carried in the housing, the memory including software programmed therein and programmed data corresponding to a plurality of holiday color schemes including those associated with Christmas, Independence Day, and Halloween.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the decorating selector comprises a dip switch associated with a plurality of selectable colors.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the decorating selector comprises a push-button switch for sequentially selecting holiday color schemes.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the decorative light strand includes a wireless remote control device and a wireless receiver with antenna, the method further comprising:

for each act of setting, causing a control command from the wireless remote control device to be received at the wireless receiver for selecting the holiday color schemes along the decorative light strand.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the decorative light strand further includes a microprocessor/microcontroller in the housing for controlling the illumination of the plurality lights the holiday color schemes based on the settings of the switch.

38. (Previously Presented) A decorative lighting apparatus, comprising:
a decorative light strand comprising a plurality of wires and a plurality of lights positioned therealong;

an AC plug and cord interface for supplying power to all illuminated lights along the decorative light strand;

a decorating selector which includes a housing and a plurality of user-settable switches carried on the housing, each user-settable switch associated with a corresponding color of a plurality of different colors;

the housing being attached to the decorative light strand; and

a plurality of outputs coupled to the plurality of wires for illuminating the plurality of lights with a color scheme in accordance with the user-settable switches.

39. (Previously Presented) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 38, wherein the plurality of user-settable switches are configurable to illuminate a plurality of different holiday color schemes along the decorative light strand.

40. (Previously Presented) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 38, wherein the plurality of user-settable switches are configurable to illuminate a plurality of different holiday color schemes along the decorative light strand including Christmas, Independence Day, and Halloween.

41. (New) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 21, wherein at least some of the holiday color schemes have at least two colors which are simultaneously illuminated.

42. (New) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 21, wherein at least some of the holiday color schemes have at least three colors which are simultaneously illuminated.

43. (New) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:
wherein the holiday color scheme corresponding to Christmas comprises the colors red and green;

wherein the holiday color scheme corresponding to Independence Day comprises the colors red, white, and blue; and

wherein the holiday color scheme corresponding to Halloween comprises the color orange.

44. (New) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:
wherein the holiday color scheme corresponding to Christmas comprises the colors red and green which are simultaneously illuminated;

wherein the holiday color scheme corresponding to Independence Day comprises the colors red, white, and blue which are simultaneously illuminated; and

wherein the holiday color scheme corresponding to Halloween comprises the color orange.

45. (New) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 21, wherein logic outputs are provided from the microprocessor/microcontroller for the illumination of the decorative light strand.

46. (New) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 21, wherein the microprocessor/microcontroller is further operative to control the illumination of a decorative light strand comprising:

a plurality of independently illuminable light strands which are intertwined together in a linear fashion to form the light strand; and

each independently illuminable light strand for illuminating a different one of a plurality of colors.

47. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein at least some of the holiday color schemes have at least two colors which are simultaneously illuminated.

48. (New) The method of claim 30, further comprising:

wherein the Christmas holiday color scheme comprises the colors red and green which are simultaneously illuminated;

wherein the Independence Day holiday color scheme comprises the colors red, white, and blue which are simultaneously illuminated; and

wherein the Halloween holiday color scheme comprises the color orange.

49. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the decorative light strand comprises a plurality of independently illuminable light strands which are intertwined

together in a linear fashion to form the light strand, each independently illuminable light strand for illuminating a different one of a plurality of colors of the color schemes.

50. (New) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 38, wherein the decorative light strand further comprises:

a plurality of independently illuminable light strands which are intertwined together in a linear fashion to form the light strand; and

each independently illuminable light strand for illuminating a different one of a plurality of colors of the color schemes.

51. (New) The decorative lighting apparatus of claim 38, wherein at least some of the color schemes have at least two colors which are simultaneously illuminated.